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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03

SCA-01 CPR-01 /068 W
---------- 050428
R 121327Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7952
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
MSGBN ARLINGTON, VA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
DIA
DOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 218

JIDDA FOR COL. KOETHE
ADDIS FOR F. CO.
DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, MILI, MA
SUBJ: VISA REFUSALS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF: (A) TANA 0181 (B) TANA 0155

1. MFA INFORMED US DEFINITIVELY FEB. 12 THAT DECISION NOT TO ISSUE VISAS TO KOETHE AND LEMERISE HAD BEEN REAFFIRMED BY FONMIN. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT ALTHOUGH ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS HAD "NO OBJECTION" TO EMB. PRETORIA'S ATTACHE AIRCRAFT OVER-NIGHTING TANANARIVE, AUTHORIZATION FOR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN FINALLY REFUSED, EITHER AT PRESIDENCY OR IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. REFERRING TO THIS FLIGHT, MFA ALLUDED TO REPORTS OF MERCENARIES FOR ANGOLA BEING FERRIED TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SAID THAT ALL FLIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA THESE DAYS ARE SUSPECT. FLIGHT MIGHT HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED IN ANY EVENT, BUT TIMING WAS OB-
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VIOUSLY UNFORTUNATE.

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2. I REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO WELCOME KOETHE AND LEMERISE TO TANANARIVE, AS WELL AS CREW OF PRETORIA'S AIRCRAFT. IT FORBODES POSSIBLE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING PERHAPS STATUS OF MSG DETACHMENT WHICH WE DO NOT WISH TO LOSE. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT PRECAUTIONS ARE NECESSARY RE IDENTIFYING FUTURE MILITARY VISITORS TO TANANARIVE, AS NOTED PARA 4 REF (B).

3. WE MUST ALSO FOCUS ON WHAT MAY BE BREWING WITHIN GDRM RE VISITORS. ALTHOUGH MFA SECGEN BEZAZA SAID THAT THERE IS NO BLANKET POLICY PREVENTING MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM VISITING MADAGASCAR, MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL INFORMED DATT THAT EXACTLY SUCH A POLICY IS IN THE WORKS. IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN POOR TACTICS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS GDRM DIRECTLY ON THE KOETHE VISIT SINCE IT MIGHT HARDEN THEIR NOSES REGARDING AN OVERALL POLICY. NONETHELESS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO POINT OUT - AT LEAST FOR THE RECORD - THIS PATENT DISCRIMINATION.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, WITH THE DEPT'S PERMISSION, I WOULD PLAN TO DELIVER NOTE TO MFA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QTE THE EMBASSY... AND REFERS TO THE MINISTRY'S DECISION NOT TO GRANT VISAS TO FRANK R. KOETHE AND WILLIAM E. LEMERISE. ACCORDING TO ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE, ALL OFFICIAL PERSONNEL TRAVELING ON GOVERNMENT ORDERS ARE ACCORDED PERMISSION TO VISIT THEIR RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS AS A ROUTINE PART OF ASSURING THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF SUCH A MISSION. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE TWO INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WERE MAKING A ROUTINE INSPECTION OF THE SECURITY STATUS OF THE EMBASSY, IN VIEW OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OF RECENT YEARS, AND ESPECIALLY WITH A VIEW TOWARD ASSURING THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THE EMBASSY IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE MINISTRY'S DECISION WITH RESPECT TO MESSRS. KOETHE AND LEMERISE IS DISCRIMINATORY SINCE THERE IS NO WRITTEN POLICY ISSUED BY NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY WHICH WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN MADAGASCAR. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) UNQTE

5. REQUEST DEPT'S CONCURRENCE TO SEND NOTE.SHEINBAUM

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